

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 914

By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Michael Smith, Principal of Kirby High School in Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly recognize that there can be no greater influence on a child than that of a good teacher; and

WHEREAS, time spent in the classroom is an investment that will reap great dividends not only for the present, but for future generations as well; and

WHEREAS, Michael Smith has generously shared his skills, compassion, and enthusiasm with the many valued students of Kirby High School as their Principal; under his tireless leadership, students have been encouraged to commit themselves to excellence, academic mastery, and high expectations; and

WHEREAS, by personal example, Michael Smith has set a highly visible standard of citizenship for his students, earning the great respect and admiration of Kirby High School's students, faculty, staff, and parents; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Kirby High School community have many reasons to take pride in their school: 91 percent of students passed the English Gateway Exam and 95 percent passed the Biology Gateway Exam in the spring of 2004; Writing Assessment scores for 2004 rated a "B" on the State's Report Card; Algebra Gateway scores improved more than 30 percent from 2003 to 2004; 85 percent of students scored proficient and advanced on the Gateway English II exam in the spring of 2005; and the girls' track team won the state title in the 4 x 200 relay in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Kirby High School boasts an enrollment of 1,418 students and promotion rates of 61 percent with an average class size of twenty-five; moreover, fully 65 percent of the

faculty have master's or doctoral degrees, with 91 percent having attained their State Teaching Certificate and License; and

WHEREAS, committed to excellence, Kirby High School offers an innovative and effective array of academic programs to help students excel, including Peer Tutoring, Marching Band, Student Government, National Honor Society, Varsity and Junior Varsity Cheerleading, Show Choir, AP English IV, AP U.S. History, English Language Learner's Classes, Greenhouse, Knowledge Bowl, Teens for Peace, and Newspapers in Education; and

WHEREAS, Kirby High School has also partnered with corporations and civic groups, including ITT Technical Institute, Wal-Mart Neighborhood Store, Nike Inc., It's All Good Auto Sales, Mitchell Technologies, Creative Crew, and Hickory Hill M.B. Church to offer rewards and incentives for students on the academic, attendance, and citizenship honor rolls, as well as providing athletic equipment and financial aid information to students and the school; and

WHEREAS, Principal Smith's message to the Kirby High School community is one of substance: "The students at KHS are our number 1 priority. We will continue to promote a 'learning community' at Kirby High School because we know that the education they receive will prepare them for life and lead to great things in their future."; and

WHEREAS, in his many years in education and educational administration, Michael Smith has, by his commitment, dedication, personal involvement, and enthusiasm for the success of each one of his students, exemplified the very best in teaching excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Michael Smith for his outstanding record as Principal of Kirby High School and for his many years of dedicated and selfless service to the students under his care as an educator and administrator.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we thank Mr. Michael Smith for his commitment to the education of the youth of his community, his devotion to their best interests, and his many contributions to his community and to this State. We offer him our best wishes for every success in all his future endeavors and much happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.